

Patent claims

1. An unsaturated palm oil fatty alcohol having an iodine number in the range from 65 to 85, which essentially comprises unsaturated fatty alcohols and mixtures of saturated fatty alcohols of the formula(I)

R¹OH

(I)

- 10 in which R¹ is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched alkyl radical having 14 to 20 carbon atoms, obtainable by

- (a) fractionating palm oil fatty acid methyl esters into a predominantly saturated C₁₆ distillate and a predominantly unsaturated C_{16/18} bottom product, and
15 (b) hydrogenating the bottom product with retention of the double bonds to give the corresponding alcohols.

2. A process for the preparation of unsaturated palm oil fatty alcohols having an iodine number in the range from 65 to 85, which essentially comprise unsaturated fatty alcohols and mixtures of saturated fatty alcohols of formula (I)

25 **R¹OH**

(I)

in which R¹ is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched alkyl radical having 14 to 20 carbon atoms, in which

- 30 (a) palm oil fatty acid methyl esters is fractionated into a predominantly saturated C₁₆ distillate and a predominantly unsaturated C_{16/18} bottom product, and
(b) the bottom product is hydrogenated with retention of the double bonds to give the corresponding
35 alcohols.